

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. Applicants, in the present Response, have canceled claims 1-13, without prejudice, and introduced new claims 14-33.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for allegedly containing new matter. Claims 7, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,203,509 (hereinafter "Thompson"). Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Thompson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,354,424 (hereinafter "Rowles"). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Thompson.

Applicants, in order to expedite prosecution, have canceled claims 1-13, reserving the right to prosecute these claims in a later application, and introduced new claims 14-33. Support for the new claims can be found in the application as originally filed. For example, support for claims 14 and 15 drawn to a polymeric aircraft roller can be found at least at page 3, line 19, to page 4, line 10. Support for claims 16, 17, 32, and 33 drawn to the polymeric material can be found at least at page 5, lines 8-13. Support for claim 18 drawn to the shoulders of the rollers can be found at least at page 6, lines 1-3, page 7, lines 6-9, and figures 1-6. Support for claims 19-22 drawn to some exemplary properties of the rollers can be found at least at page 6, line 16, to page 7, line 2, page 8, lines 11-13, and lines 20-21. Support for claims 23-26 drawn to some exemplary dimensions of the rollers can be found at least at page 4, lines 17-21. Support for claims 27-29 drawn to an aircraft conveyor system using the rollers and methods of installing said rollers can be found at least at page 2, lines 3-7 and page 3, line 19, to page 4, line 2. Support for claims 30 and 31 drawn to a process for making the rollers can be found at least at page 6, lines 1-5.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for allegedly containing new matter. Applicants have canceled claim 6 rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 7, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Thompson. Applicants have canceled claims 7, 10, and 13 rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Thompson in view of Rowles. Moreover, claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Thompson. Applicants have canceled claims 1-6, 8, 9, 10, and 12 rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the new claims. Independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15-33 are drawn to an aircraft roller consisting essentially of a polymeric material. Applicants note the views expressed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (hereinafter "Board") regarding the rollers of Thompson and the rollers disclosed by Applicants, "[w]e are cognizant of the differences between the rollers of Thompson and the rollers disclosed by the appellant." (See, page 19, lines 3-5 of the Decision). Applicants, with the submission of the instant claims, seek to more particularly claim certain embodiments of the invention, including the differences recognized by the Board.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the new claims and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned attorney at 713 436 8371.



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